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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2539  
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RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0364  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3090  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6328  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7838  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2716  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3860  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3821  
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - U.S. POLICY IN  
AFGHANISTAN AND SECRETARY OF STATE CLINTON IN JAKARTA

11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Friday morning included the alleged "influence peddling" by a top secretary to Prime Minister Aso in connection with the admittance of a son of the aide's acquaintance to a medical college.

12. "Japan Should Assist U.S. in Devising Strategy for Afghanistan" On President Obama's commitment to sending more troops to Afghanistan, the conservative Sankei editorialized (2/20): "It is completely uncertain whether the additional deployment will turn around the situation in Afghanistan. Concern is already mounting that the U.S. would be drawn into quagmire. Nonetheless, it was a key decision taken by the U.S., which is struggling with the unprecedented economic crisis. U.S. allies, including Japan, will be called upon to make additional contributions, including putting forward ideas, so that the Obama administration can draw up a long-term strategy for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.... The destabilization of a nuclear Pakistan would lead to a crisis. The country must be retained at all costs in the U.S.-orchestrated war on terrorism."

13. "Pro-U.S. Sentiment Coexists with Skepticism" A Jakarta correspondent for the liberal Asahi wrote on Secretary Clinton's visit to Indonesia (2/20): "In her meeting with President Yudhoyono, the Secretary reiterated a U.S. policy of enhancing ties with Indonesia. The Obama administration hopes the country to serve as a buffer state that bridges the U.S. with Islamic states in the Middle East. However, there exist gaps in views between Washington and Jakarta on Middle East peace talks, as well as the human rights situation in Indonesia."

